

Representative Slaughter is proud to have supported the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA, P.L. 111-148, March 23, 2010). Health care reform will dramatically improve the quality of health care services for seniors, reduce prescription drug costs, and improve access to preventative services.

### **Strengthening Medicare**

The Patient Protection Act will improve the quality, accessibility, and solvency of Medicare. Health care reform ends out-of-pocket service charges for preventive services such as the flu vaccine, mammograms, and colonoscopy. The new law will also extend the solvency of Medicare by weeding out waste and achieving payment parity between traditional and private Medicare plans. In addition, the Patient Protection Act incentivizes provider coordination through new payment systems.

### **Closing the Donut Hole**

The Patient Protection Act closes the donut hole, the gap in coverage under Medicare Part D that forces seniors to cover drug costs out-of-pocket. Seniors who reach the donut hole in 2010 will receive a \$250 check to cover drug costs. In 2011, a 50% discount will be provided by drug companies. By the end of the decade the donut hole will close completely. An estimated 9,000 seniors in my district will save an average of \$700 in 2011 and more than \$3,000 in 2020.

Rep. Slaughter also supported the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) when it passed in the House of Representatives by a vote of 355- 59 on Jul 15, 2008. MIPPPA amended titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to extend expiring provisions under the Medicare Program, to improve beneficiary access to preventive and mental health services, to enhance low-income benefit programs, and to maintain access to care in rural areas, including pharmacy access, and for other purposes.